



Tapu!tea

...ina ia manino le folauga.

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OFFICIAL AMERICAN SAMOA GOVERNMENT WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

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Governor Togiola holds positive meeting with Fono Leadership and LBJ officials on \$10m loan

Governor Togiola Tulafono met Monday morning (Feb. 6, 2006) with Senate President Lolo M. Moliga, Speaker of the House of Representatives Matagi Ray Ma'ilo McMoore and officials from the American Samoa Medical Center Authority (ASMCA), including CEO Taufete'e John Faumuina, Chief Financial Officer David Deprin and Chairman of the Board Charles Warren. The subject of the meeting was the \$10 million ASMCA credit facility loan bill currently pending in the Legislature.

"The meeting was very positive," said Governor Togiola. "It was an excellent opportunity for all the key leaders to sit down and discuss the importance of the bill for the hospital, and more importantly, the people."

"Senate President Lolo shared with us the collective view of the Senate as well as his own thoughts on the bill as written. Speaker of the House Matagi also shared his gratitude for any and all efforts that would result in passage of this important bill during this session," added Gov. Togiola.

While the details of the meeting are still being worked out, in the form of amendment language which will be submitted to the Legislature this week, the Governor expressed his thanks to the Fono leadership for their commitment to work together on this important bill.

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"Helping our people is the basic fundamental goal. As long as this remains our priority, there is no challenge that we shouldn't be able to resolve," said the Governor.

At the meeting, Board Chairman Mr. Charles Warren briefed the Governor and Fono leadership on the latest developments at the medical center. Included in the Chairman's report was the news that LBJ met all the minimum requirements and conditions for participation in Center for Medicaid / Medicare Services (CMS).

"As cited by the hospital wide CMS review team, this was the first time in fourteen years that there were no condition level finds," said Warren. "This means that sufficient corrections had been made to prior findings that enabled LBJ to participate in the Medicare / Medicaid program."

Chairman Warren said according to the review team, "although other areas of 'standards' were identified, LBJ Hospital has improved in providing a level of service to all patients that is not considered sub-level, or bordering on removal from the CMS programs.

"There are still areas where improvements in Standards are needed. Through the review, these areas were identified and the appropriate service area will address the deficiencies," said Warren.

Governor Togiola welcomed the good news by the review team and the meeting with the Fono Leadership.

"I am very pleased to hear this because this is very good news for American Samoa and our hospital," said Gov. Togiola. "As we continue to work together for the good of the Territory and our hospital, I am very grateful to President Lolo and Speaker Matagi for the meeting and I would like to express my sincere gratitude for the concerted effort of both the executive and legislative branches of our government and the constant progress in the direction of working out a positive solution to help out our hospital."



Governor Togiola with Lauvale Sape and wife Sarah

Buffalo Bills Defensive Tackle Visits Governor Togiola

Lauvale Sape, Buffalo Bills Defensive Tackle #93, paid a courtesy call, during Super Bowl Week, to Governor Togiola Tulafono with his wife Sarah. Governor Togiola presented the Sapes with a book on American Samoa and commemorative coins as mementos of their visit to the Office of the Governor.

"As we prepare for the Super Bowl and the five sons of Samoa that are part of the two teams, I want to congratulate Lauvale Sape and say thank you for his dedication and commitment to the game of football. He has joined an elite group of the many Samoan brothers playing in the NFL and I join all of American Samoa to say we are very proud of all of you. And thank you for representing our island home with such dignity and class," said Governor Togiola.

Born in American Samoa, and a native of Pagai village in the Eastern District, Sape attended Leilehua High School in Oahu, Hawaii and was a first-team All-State lineman and Most Valuable Defensive Player at the Hawaii All-Star game. A sociology major at the University of Utah, Sape, (6' 1", 296 lbs.) was selected by the Bills in the sixth round of the 2003 NFL Draft. The Sapes currently reside in Leilehua.

ASG RADIO PROGRAM

with: Governor Togiola Tulafono
Saturdays @ 7a.m.

on: Showers of Blessings-FM 104.7
Call 699-8123 or 699-8124

AS-UCEDD Coordinator Warns Against Abuse and Exploitation of Individuals with Disabilities

The Territory needs to strengthen existing laws and to create new ones to protect individuals with disabilities from abuse and exploitation. This message came through loud and clear when Mrs. Tafa Mamea of the American Samoa University Center for Excellence on Developmental Disabilities (AS-UCEDD) spoke at the "Faces of Abuse" awareness forum hosted by the Legislature in late January on the topic of "Abused Victims with Disabilities."

Mamea began her talk by pointing out how children with developmental disabilities are four (4) to ten (10) times more likely than the general population to suffer abuse, neglect, financial and sexual exploitation, and the violation of their legal and human rights. Compounding this problem, children with disabilities typically have a harder time communicating, assuming they even wish to communicate. "Among victims of sexual abuse, the inability to trust is pronounced, which also contributes to secrecy and non-disclosure," explained Mamea.

Numerous cases recently reported in the U.S. illustrate how the abuse of children with disabilities often coincides with the exploitation of them. "In 1997," Mamea told the audience, "police in New York discovered a network of 55 deaf children selling key rings in the city's subway system. Many deaf children are being trafficked from Mexico by an organized group that specializes in selling defenseless children into slavery. Each child was expected to sell \$100 worth of key chains or face violent physical abuse."

"So what does this have to do with American Samoa?" she continued. "Just look around you. We have children selling items, from food to leis, immediately after school till late at night at the ATM machines, bars, restaurants, stores, and the airport. My heart ached when I saw a young boy trying to sell mangoes, but he was falling asleep by the ATM machine with bruises on his face and body, or other times falling asleep in a parking lot trying to sell his last three bags of mangoes at 11 p.m. before going home."

"Trafficking in children arises from poverty, the decline of the extended family, and the lack of education for the children. But this illicit trade is also a result of how some societies regard children. Parents themselves are often responsible for the enslavement of their children, seeing them as an investment they hope will make some contribution to the family income, either in cash or in kind. This view creates a fertile ground for child labor and trafficking to develop in American Samoa. I can sit here and assure you that this will never happen here, but 20 years ago, I thought drugs would never enter our Territory. Now we read about drug cases practically every day."

Mamea concluded with a plea that American Samoa "close the loopholes" that would allow this type of activity to gain a foothold in the Territory. "Having become familiar with the hard efforts of the Child Task Force has influenced my passion to advocate for abused children with disabilities. As a service provider, advocate, and as a proud parent of a child receiving special education services, I am asking for your support on this horrific issue. We must protect our children from harm by tightening up existing laws and creating new ones that protect them from exploitation. We must set the tone that we will not tolerate abuse, neglect, and exploitation."

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ASCC Nursing Students Assist in Filariasis Elimination Efforts

By James Kneubuhl, ASCC Press Officer

In collaboration with the Department of Health (DOH) and the Center for Disease Control (CDC), nursing students at the American Samoa Community College (ASCC) recently completed a two-week project aimed at decreasing the disease filariasis in the Territory. Between January 21 and February 6, seven student nurses from the College assisted DOH and CDC personnel in monitoring and controlling lymphatic filariasis among residents of Pago Pago, Fagasa, Faga'itua, Vaitogi and Aunu'u.

Since 2000, the filariasis elimination program in American Samoa has provided annual treatment for everyone in the Territory, and as a result, the number of people taking the medicine to prevent filariasis has greatly improved. The Department of Health conducts testing in select villages every two to three years to monitor levels of the disease and to see how well the filariasis pills are working. For this year's outreach activities, Dr. Jennifer Liang and Mr. Jonathan King of the CDC assisted the DOH staff and ASCC student nurses.

The seven nursing students, all working towards their Associate Degree, took part in registering, interviewing, testing and educating participants in the villages. Two teams of nursing students worked in each village, with one team stationed at a guest house while the other went door-to-door to offer testing for lymphatic filariasis. "Thanks to the nursing students' dedication and professionalism, the testing in all five villages was very successful," commented Dr. Liang. Added Moli Pa'au, DOH Associate Director of Nursing, "With the efforts of all involved, we surpassed our goal for the number of people we wanted to test this year".

The two-week project marks a continuation of the ASCC nursing students' dedication to community service. Since 2003, they have participated in the campaign to help eliminate filariasis by assisting the DOH Mass Drug Administration program. Last year, the nursing students provided medication administration and health education both on campus and at sites throughout Tutuila.

"The students have done a fantastic job. I'm impressed with their commitment and ability to work well in the community," concluded Mr. King from the CDC.



Department of Health and Center for Disease Control Representatives with ASCC Student Nurses.

Share important activities
in your Department, Agency or Office with
our ASG workforce as well as the citizens
of American Samoa.

Email your articles to:

tapuitema@amsamoa.gov.as

Or call Harry Stevens @ 733-1694

Or Vince Iuli @ 733-1041

Governor Togiola Tulafono Pays Tribute to Cardinal Pio Taofinu'u

On Friday, January 20th, the banner line in our local newspaper said – "CARDINAL PIO passes away at 82."

I wished the banner had boldly announced what we all believe to be true – "CARDINAL PIO has gone to heaven."

For ever since we heard that his sun was tilting and about to set, the only question had been when it will meet the horizon, and enter the deep blue to rest. But there was never any question about his final destination. Samoa, east and west, had always been united in the belief that this sun will rise again. It will rise in heaven.

There have been a very few leaders about whom we were unanimous as to their destination after departure. Mother Teresa was one. Pope John Paul was another. Our own Cardinal Pio belonged in that class of the elite of God.

Eulogies and funeral remarks are occasions to praise the departed. On the occasion of the passing of this great man of God, I make these praises and tributes without reservation, comfort in the knowledge that they are true, and well deserved. If I had the power, I would have asked the thunders for a round of applause, and lightning to flash the happy message to the corners of the earth - that CARDINAL PIO has gone to heaven!

As a non-Catholic, I know less about our friend and father, and was not as close to him, as most of you - you who are now expressing pride in the life and works of Patele Pio. But I say this to you, my Catholic friends and fellow-Christians, "Cardinal Pio was not yours alone. He was ours too." And to the nation of Samoa and especially to his village of Falealupo, I say - you cannot have monopoly over the memory of this great Samoan. He was God's gift to all of us! The pride in his legacy belongs to us all - equally.

I say that in deep admiration and gratitude, for all Samoa now enjoy the fruits of his labors. Fatuoaiga in American Samoa has been a shelter and source of comfort to adherents of all faiths, all nationalities, the old and young, to the poor and low income. That is only one monument, a jewel of a testimony, to his legacy of achievements, achievements based on love and compassion.

Early in his illustrious career as a church leader, Cardinal Pio led the team specially appointed to escort back to Pago Pago, the body of one of our senators assassinated in Savai'i. It was a remarkable display of courage, love and compassion. His presence was healing. His words were comforting. He was the man of peace at work. Intense feelings were negated. I am sure he took no credit in the success of such missions, but passed the glory up to his Master.

As the son of a Congregational pastor, I grew up in an era when religious animosities were not long gone or completely forgotten. I used to hear people from my church say that there were no good priests - until Pio Taofinu'u came along. He erased any and all of our lingering religious differences. One of the greatest part of his legacy is that he helped us to feel comfortable worshipping together - as Samoan Christians.

Cardinal Pio was blessed with the skill, or shall I say 'ingenuity', to produce something from nothing. I cite Fatuoaiga and the Catholic High Schools in American Samoa, they are beautiful campuses located where just a few years ago - there were only rocks and forest. I am sure no one here today needs a reminder of his deeds, for we all witnessed the determination and drive of the servant of God we have come to honor.

I consider it a privilege to have met this great leader, and to have been excited and inspired by his brand of leadership.

I know there was reluctance, even outright criticism of some of his tough and costly development programs. But the fact that they were completed bear witness to one of his blessings - the ability to make even his critics - support his ideas. As a leader, I wished he had left me that shroud.

Cardinal Pio proved that contextual theology can be understood and accepted. To that end, he personally selected a number of eloquent and meaningful Samoan customs, for inclusion in the most honored of Catholic rituals - the Holy Mass. In doing that, he helped elevate the dignity and respect for our Samoan customs. He made us, Samoans educated in and exposed to foreign ways, rethink our attitude about our customs and traditions.

Students of our language tell me that Cardinal Pio was the originator of *tamalii'aga*, *auaunaga*, and more recently - *tasi'aga*. This latest one, *tasi'aga* refers to the 'oneness of God,' the "three in one" God. But it can also be used to describe the unity of Christians. What a mind! What a man!

A Catholic priest friend told me that Cardinal Pio read and approved the Samoan translation of every church document, whether they were for ceremonies or services.

The few times I was privileged to be close to Cardinal Pio, I was moved by the softness of his voice. He can raise it. But it would still be tender. I was amazed at how a man so determined and firm, so tireless in the pursuit of his work goals, can also be so soft and tender. I suppose it flowed from a tender heart. Tenderness was more than an attribute. It was a weapon in his arsenal as he fought the good fight.

The Council of Churches said in their farewell message this week that Cardinal Pio has joined the *eternal procession of the blessed ones to their everlasting abode*. I agree wholeheartedly, for I believe it to be true.

In the immortal words of Tusitala, he will lie 'where he longed to be'. Yes, his ashes will mingle with those of his and our forefathers, giving us more reason to love and esteem our portion from God.

The Cardinal has left a challenge. To the churchmen of all faiths, toil for your Master in a manner holy and pleasing to Him. To our traditional leaders, customs and traditions are pleasant in the sight of God, when performed with truthfulness and love. To business leaders, pursue goals with tenacity, but always be mindful of the welfare of our people, and the advancement of our society. To government leaders, he has challenged us to feed and care for the sheep of God, to serve with honor, humility, and honesty.

Farewell, Cardinal Pio. Farewell, and Thank you.

HISTORICAL NOTES

By: Stan Sorenson, Historian
Office of the Governor

On February 1, 1930, American Samoa's Governor, Captain Gatewood Sanders Lincoln, amended the *Codification of the Regulations and Orders for the Government of American Samoa* by adding "Section 72: Acquisition of Lands for Public Purposes," and "Section 104: Creating a Water Commission and Water Districts in American Samoa."

On February 1, 1940, American Samoa's civilian population was recorded as 12,908. 2,597 of these lived in Manu'a, and 147 on Swains Island. The non-Samoan population included 31 *papalagi*, four Japanese, two Filipinos and one Chinese. Naval station personnel totalled 263.

On February 1, 1998, Dr. Frank Brown, Professor of Education at the University of Hawaii and a pioneer educator and teacher trainer in American Samoa, passed away in Honolulu at age 68, following "complications related to a recent heart surgery."

On February 2, 1907, American Samoa's Acting Governor, Lieutenant W.G. Briggs, issued his "Regulation No. 2-1907: Customs Duties," which amended Commandant Edmund Beardsley Underwood's "Regulation No. 4-1904," which in turn amended Commandant Benjamin Tilley's "Regulation No. 17-1900," both of the same title.

On February 2, 1938, the minesweeper USS *Avocet* (AVP34), visited American Samoa. Philatelic covers with "TUTUILA / SAMOA" in the killer bars were postmarked aboard the ship. (1h. FSS/Sorensen 2004)

On February 2, 1990, Hurricane "Ofa" began its four-day rampage through the Samoan archipelago, causing widespread damage.

On February 3, 1944, 110 officers and 2,080 enlisted men of the U.S. Army's 147th Infantry Regiment departed 'Upolu for Nouméa, New Caledonia, aboard USS *General George Squier*.

On February 4, 1887, the *Taimua* and *Faipule* (the legislature of Samoa) approved the "Treaty of Political Alliance and Confederation," which Mr. John E. Bush, Hawaiian King Kalakaua's Envoy to the King of Samoa, had brought on January 3, 1887. This approval allowed Samoa to join King Kalakaua's Polynesian Confederation. (1a. Kuykendall 1967: 328)

On February 4, 1911, Governor William Michael Crose asked the U.S. Navy's Bureau of Medicine and Surgery to send an eye specialist to the U.S. Naval Station Tutuila for temporary duty. (2f. Crose 1911: 4)

On February 5, 1917, Lieutenant Colonel Robert Logan, New Zealand's Administrator for Western Samoa, issued his "Proclamation No. 43," which stated that anyone going near the internment camp in Sogi, Apia (where many *Mau* members were incarcerated) would be guilty of a "war crime." (1a. Field 1984: front endpaper)

On February 6, 1944, the Commandant, U.S. Naval Station Tutuila (Captain John G. Moyer) assumed control of the Marine Barracks (formerly commanded by a Marine Corps Brigadier General) as the war moved westward and American Samoa's importance decreased.

On February 6, 1975, Frank C. Mockler completed his term as American Samoa's tenth appointed civil governor (acting: since October 15, 1974). (6. Sorensen 2003: 3)

On February 6, 1975, Earl B. Ruth began his term as American Samoa's 11th appointed civil governor (until September 30, 1976). (Sorensen 2003: 3)

On February 7, 1876, Malietoa Laupepa, appointed as "King of Samoa" by the Three Consuls and held aboard HMS *Barracouta*, was persuaded to sign a letter requesting the arrest of Samoa's "Premier" Albert Barnes Steinberger as "a liar and an impostor." (1a. Morrell 1960: 218)

On February 7, 1916, Earl Baker Ruth, American Samoa's 11th appointed civil governor, was born in Spencer, Rowan County, North Carolina. (2f. Leach 2000)

Governor Togiola insists on Hawaiian Air to reduce HNL-PPG-HNL airfares to \$500

Governor Togiola Tulafono has again expressed serious concerns with the high cost of airfares on Hawaiian Airlines on the Honolulu-Pago Pago route and has asked that airfares for the route be dropped to \$500 round-trip.

In light of a recent speech in Las Vegas by Hawaiian Air CEO and president - Mark Dunkerley, where he is quoted as saying that "an airline's ability to manage revenue and create revenue premiums becomes at least as important as the ability to manage costs," Governor Togiola has written a letter to Mr. Dunkerley to address those remarks.

"Your comments suggest that the long sought explanation of the extraordinary high fares Hawaiian Airlines is charging between Honolulu and Pago Pago is a result of your now published policy of focusing on creating revenue premiums," wrote the Governor. "We can now understand these enhanced fares as revenue premium driven rather than cost driven. The ability to create such a revenue premium is obviously based on our defenseless position as a relatively smaller community. We are marginally unable to sustain suitably competitive carriers to maintain price discipline against a single carrier's opportunities for aggression."

Governor Togiola, in his letter, also told Mr. Dunkerley: "There is a need for voluntary restraint, an exercise of a corporation's good conscience" and insisted on the airline to lower its fares between Hawaii and the Territory.

"We want the economy class fares on the Honolulu-Pago Pago-Honolulu sectors to be reduced to \$500 or less round-trip," said Governor Togiola in his letter. "This is a stated goal of this Government. We would like to understand why you would not be satisfied with profits earned at this fare level. Your efforts in good faith to achieve this objective will be recognized and appreciated by the people of this U.S. Territory."

In an official statement today regarding his letter to Mr. Dunkerley, Governor Togiola said he "will continue to insist on a reduction on airfares because it continues to be an agonizing experience for the people of American Samoa to pay high airfares on the Samoan route when a similar flight, and of the same length, to California on Hawaiian from Honolulu is drastically lower in price."

"It appears from the policy stated in the speech, that fares to and from Pago Pago are not cost driven, but are premium driven. I understand this to mean that the basis for fares is not what it costs to operate the route, but what the market will bear. If the market will bear fares upwards of \$2,500, then \$2,500 becomes the going rate," said the Governor. "In other markets, competition would help to bring down fares. As we are all aware in the Territory, this is not the case. In some instances, a corporation's good conscience will move the entity to adopt smaller profit margins in exchange for providing a valuable service, and it is my intent to keep the plight of our local people embedded in the conscience of Hawaiian Air."

"This is not to say that Hawaiian Air cannot make a profit for itself in this market. They are entitled to, as a matter of business. However, the goodwill of the people and the disadvantaged market of which our people are a part, must not be plundered."

Governor Togiola said he empathizes with the local travelers as these high fares place a strain on passengers financially due to the high cost of a Hawaiian flight to Honolulu.

"In reviewing Hawaiian Air's progress over the past few years, it appears that they have established several more gateways on the U.S. West Coast, offering the most competitive rates available," said Gov. Togiola. "However, in the meantime, a flight from Honolulu to Pago Pago that is substantially similar in distance and time, costs approximately four times as much as these fares."

"It is painful to watch our people continue to suffer under the weight of fares charged by Hawaiian. It is even more painful to hear airline officials speaking of revenue premiums as a vital part of an airline's business, especially when they hold a monopoly as is the case in the Territory," said Governor Togiola.

"I firmly believe that Hawaiian has a responsibility, because of its monopoly in the local market, to extend some relief to a tried and true route that has been a part of its operation for several years now. I believe the people deserve no less consideration," concluded Governor Togiola.

ASEPA BEACH ADVISORY

The American Samoa Environmental Protection Agency (ASEPA) wishes to inform the public that on 02/07/06 the following recreational beaches were found to be contaminated with enterococci bacteria levels that exceed ASEPA Water Quality Standards:

Malota-Stream Mouth, Malota
Fagasa-Fagale'a (near bridge), Fagasa
Western Utumea beach, Utumea West
Vatia-Stream Mouth (2nd bridge), Vatia
Leala (Sliding Rock), Taputimu
Aua-Video (across A&M), Aua
Pala Lagoon Spring (near tennis court)
Alega-Stream mouth, Alega
Gataivai Beach (across laudromat)
Alao Beach, Alao
Faga'itua Beach (across sub station)

Fagatogo-Stream Mouth, Fagatogo
Amanave Beach(across church), Amanave
Afono-Stream mouth (across cricket)
Leone Pala (near bridge), Leone
Aua Stream Mouth (near bridge), Aua
Pala Lagoon (across playground), Nuuuli
Alega Beach (across resort), Alega
Fagaalu Beach (adjacent field), Fagaalu
Aoa-Stream Mouth, Aoa
Onenoa Beach, Onenoa

Malota Beach(near Gurrs), Malota
Fagasa-Fagatele(across boat house)
Asili Beach (across LMS church.), Asili
Aua-Pouesi (across Pouesi Mart), Aua
Fogagogo Beach (across resort)
Lauli'i Tuai-Stream Mouth, Lauli'I
Fatumafuti Beach, Fatumafuti
Masefau-Stream Mouth, Masefau
Yacht Club Beach, Utulei
Alofau-Stream mouth (1st bridge), Alofau

The public should not swim, wade, or fish within 400 feet of these polluted beaches. This advisory is in effect until further sampling and laboratory analyses indicate that enterococci concentrations are within water quality standards.

Water that contains excessive concentrations of enterococci bacteria is correlated with swimming-associated gastrointestinal diseases. Enterococci bacteria reside in the intestines of warm-blooded animals. Their presence in water indicates contamination by human and/or animal wastes. Swimmers in polluted water are at risk for many waterborne diseases, some of which may cause serious illness.

Note: ASEPA laboratory monitors the water quality of 42 recreational beaches on Tutuila, the wharf in Aunu'u, and five beaches on Manu'a. Tutuila advisories are issued weekly. Aunu'u and Manu'a advisories are issued monthly. Advisories are issued when bacteria concentrations exceed levels determined safe for human exposure. Questions should be directed to the ASEPA Water Program at 633-2304.